

California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2005

Volume 96 No. 1

\$3.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Jan. 1 Sat.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Office and Library closed.

Jan. 1 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY No classes, nurseries are closed.

Jan. 3 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2004-2005

"Robert Gordon," AIFD San Luis Obispo. A favorite, Bob brings the Color Council, CGCI, flower growers, design and a sense of style and reminiscing. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 at the door. Info: 760/749-9608.

Jan. 8 Sat.

KNIFFING'S DISCOUNT NURSERY Annual Pruning Program with special speaker, Jack Shultz. 1-2:30 p.m. 14940 Oak Creek Rd., El Cajon. 619/561-0611. Free.

Jan. 8 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Plum & Apricot Trees at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Rose Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 8-9 Sat.-Sun

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY Rose Pruning Demonstration, Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden, 2525 Park Blvd., Balboa Park. 9:00 a.m.-Noon, bring gloves and pruners. Free.

Jan. 9 Sun.

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY Annual Pruning Demonstration. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Hands on demo with Consulting Rosarians. Bring your pruners and gloves to the home of Charlie and Eva Lewis, 11252 Horizon Hills Dr., El Cajon. 619/442-7268. Free.

Jan. 10 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly Meeting "Chinese Classical Gardens" by Erik Gronborg. 6:30 p.m. at the Surfside Race Place, Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

Jan. 10 Mon. through Sat. 15

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY AND OFFICE will be closed for painting.

Jan. 12 Wed.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting. Workshop: "Mosaic Stepping Stones" with Maureen Ceccarelli of Studio Maureen and the Next Door Gallery of Golden Hill. Materials provided. Workshop at noon following meeting at 10:00 a.m. Reservations required. Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., 619/276-0209 or www.plgc.org. \$27.

Jan. 15 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON Curator's Garden Walk: Desert

Garden. 9-10:30 a.m. Tour one of The Huntington's most distinguished plant collections. Tour led by Gary Lyons, Curator of the Desert Garden. Members \$15, Non-members \$20. 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Register 626/405-2146.

Jan. 15 Sat.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION Spring training seminar for stewards at the Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden. Runs four consecutive Saturdays. Cost is \$20 for materials. Volunteers for this class will become habitat stewards, trained to assist in consultation and education about wildlife habitat creation and restoration in the community. a 50-hour volunteer commitment is expected from each steward. For more information call Connie Beck Crusha at 619/749-4059 or holistcgardener@yahoo.com.

Jan. 15 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bare Root Fruit Tree Selection & Planting at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Fruit Tree Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 18 Tues.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Regular Meeting "Planting Winter Roses." 7 p.m. Raffle and light refreshments at Heritage Hall, Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Informal rose-a-holics q&a discussion begins at 6 p.m. 760/931-9863 or www.coastalrose.org. Free.

Jan. 19 Wed.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Monthly Meeting and Camellia Grafting Workshop. Learn how to graft by a society expert. 7 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Jan. 22 Sat.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Hands-on demonstration 9:30-11:30 a.m. on how to plant roses at the Rose Gardens in Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Bring gloves and shears. 760/804-0875 or www.coastalrose.org. Free.

Jan. 22 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Green Guide's "Festival of Life." 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. The entire garden will be alive with themed entertainment, children's art, food and fun for the whole family. This is a celebration of the first ever publication of a natural living guide to San Diego's Green resources and businesses. Come find out how you can help create a healthier home and community! 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

(continued on page 4)



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VOLUME 96

NUMBER 1

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2005

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FRONT COVER photograph of *Malosma laurina* (*Rhus laurina*), laurel sumac from Tree of Life Nursery, 33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano CA 92693; tel. 949-728-0685; fax 949-728-0509; www.treelife nursery.com

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WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 224-8271, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA 92110
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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**HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM
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Jan. 22 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Pruning Roses at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Rose Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Jan. 23 Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON "2005 Great Rosarians of the World: Peter Harkness." Vice president of the Royal National Rose Society, Harkness has also authored numerous books including *Modern Garden Roses*, *The Photographic Encyclopaedia of Roses*, *Roses to Enjoy*, *The Rose An Illustrated History*, and *Reliable Roses*. The Huntington Botanical Center, 1150 Oxford Rd., San Marino. **Advanced reservations and prepayment required** 626/405-3507 or email Clair G. Martin, cmartin@huntington.org. \$25 ARS members or Huntington members, \$35 non-members.

Jan. 22-23 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Winter Orchid Show. Sat. 12-4:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Jan. 26 Wed.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting "Bulbs for Southern California Gardens" by Brian Quigley of ABBOTT-IPCO Inc. Horticultural Supplies. 6:00 p.m. Mission, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Missions Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., 619/295-2702 or missionhillsgardenclub.org. Guests \$10, members free.

Jan. 29 Sat.

S.D. COUNTY BRANCH CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY Annual Orchid Auction. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Hundreds of outdoor growing orchids at great club prices for amateurs and professionals alike. The bidding pace is always slow and easy, and everyone is welcome. Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 760/753-6952. Free.

Jan. 29 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Bulbs at 9 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Fruit Tree Pruning at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 5 Sat.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Hands-on demonstration 9:30-11:30 a.m. on pruning roses at the Rose Gardens in Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Bring gloves and shears. 760/804-0875 or www.coastalrose.org. Free.

Feb. 5 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Mon.-Fri., as well as the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$15 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Feb. 5 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cymbidium Orchids at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR How to get the most from a landscape designer at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY 58th Annual Show. Enter your camellia blossoms on Sat. between 8-10 a.m. Judging from 10 a.m.-noon. Show hours: Sat. noon-5 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 7 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2004-2005 "Nancy Covin" Floral Designer of the Year, CGCI. WOW - looking for inspiration, style, creativity, or tricks, Nancy shares them all! Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 at the door. Info: 760/749-9608.

Feb. 9 Wed.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Monthly meeting "Black Magic and Purple Passion Plants with Gold and Silver Highlights" by Karen Platt, noted British horticulturist and author specializing in propagation of rare plants. 10:00 a.m. at Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., 619/276-0209 or www.plgc.org. \$5 donation suggested.

Feb. 9-13 Wed.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO 2005 BIRD FESTIVAL Includes daily bird watching excursions (see schedule at www.sandiegonaaturefestivals.org or call 619/516-0139) and Free Exhibit Fair at Marina Village Conference Center on Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego.

Feb. 10-13 Thurs.-Sun.

INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW "Fascination with Orchids." South Coast Plaza, Crate & Barrel Wing, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa. Contact Tony Glinkas 714/962-8165.

Feb. 12 Sat.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY Winter Blooming Cactus and Succulents Mini Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Feb. 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Organic Gardening at 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Fairy Gardening at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Feb. 12-13 Sat.-Sun.

CAMELLIA EXHIBIT AT WILD ANIMAL PARK 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Hosted by the San Diego Camellia

- Society. Come and see lots of camellia blooms and learn about camellia culture. Free with Park admission.
- Feb. 12-13 Sat.-Sun.**
THE HUNTINGTON Annual Camellia Show. Sat. 1-4:30 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friends' Hall, 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission. For related events and workshops check www.huntington.org.
- Feb. 14 Mon.**
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
 Monthly meeting with Karen Platt, "Seeing Color in a Different Light: Using Black, Gold and Silver in the Garden." 6:30 p.m. at the Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds. Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.
- Feb. 15 Tues.**
CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Regular Meeting at 7 p.m. with speaker, a raffle and light refreshments at Heritage Hall, Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Informal rose-a-holics q&a discussion begins at 6 p.m. 760/931-9863 or www.coastalrose.org. Free.
- Feb. 15 Tues.**
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION General Meeting (free) at 7 p.m. "An Upclose Look at the World of Bees" with Diane Busch. A special honey-themed supper precedes the meeting at 6 p.m. Advanced reservations for the dinner and \$11 required by Feb. 11. 619/232-5762.
- Feb. 16 Wed.**
SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Monthly Meeting with guest speaker Tom Nuccio from Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, growers of Rare Camellias and Azaleas since 1935. 7 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Feb. 19 Sat.**
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., as well as the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$15 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.
- Feb. 19 Sat.**
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Vegetables at 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Introduction to Bonsai at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Feb. 20 Sun.**
SAN DIEGO MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY 7th Annual Mushroom Fair including displays of local mushrooms and fungi, cooking demos, horticulture instruction, and book sales. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Feb. 23 Wed.**
MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting. "Planning & Planting Your Spring Vegetable Garden" by Master Gardener Bob Miller. 6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St. 619/295-2702 or missionhillsgardenclub.org. Guests \$10, members free.
- Feb. 26 Sat.**
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Containers & Hanging Baskets at 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271 OR Container Gardening at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Feb. 26-27 Sat.-Sun.**
THE HUNTINGTON Bosai-a-Thon. Join internationally recognized bonsai masters for a celebration of an ancient art form. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Botanical Center, 1150 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.
- Feb. 26-27 Sat.-Sun.**
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SHOW. Both days 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Demonstrations at 11:30, 1:00, and 2:30 each day. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Mar. 4-6 Fri.-Sun.**
20TH ANNUAL SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW "Garden Marketplace" Sponsored by the San Diego Horticultural Society. Del Mar Fairgrounds. Friday 12-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$12 (Children 12 and under free) sandiegohomegardenshow.com
- Mar. 4-6 Fri.-Sun.**
SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW "Celebration of Orchids 60 Years of Excellence." 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Earl Warren Showgrounds, Highway 101 and Las Positas Rd., Santa Barbara. www.sborchidshow.com. \$10 general, \$8 seniors and students, children free.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Free. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Volunteer guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyonier Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for times on docent led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., first

Saturday of the month. 230 Quail Gardens Drive,
Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.
General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided

Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning low water use landscaping and educational displays. Docent led tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Check website calendar for free classes and special events at www.thegarden.org.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students (12-18), \$6 for youth (5-11) children under 5 and members free. Group rate (10+) \$11. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

"DOWN TO EARTH" with Tom Piergrossi nightly at 7:30 p.m. on CTN. Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24 and Adelphia 66.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON
11-WEEK COURSE

Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers. (Fruit trees through roses in landscaping.)

Beginning Jan. 6 Thurs. A.M.

Thursday 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$29 Texts.

JOYCE GEMMELL
8-WEEK COURSE

Fruit Tree, Vine and Berry

Beginning Feb. 7 Fri. A.M.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m., Foothills Adult Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$25.

CONNIE BECK-CRUSHA
11-WEEK COURSE

Home Landscaping I - Basics of Organic Gardening

Beginning Jan. 5 Wed. P.M.

Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m., Santana Adult Center, Room 1305, 9915 Magnolia, Santee. 619/749-4059 or 619/596-3657. \$28.

AT MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 2005

www.miracosta.edu

SDFA flower arranging workshops and basket classes will start again in February. Please call the office, 619/232-5762, Marie at 619/298-5182 or check our website for the list., www.sdfloral.org

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for MARCH-APRIL issue is JANUARY 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.



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ERRATUM

November-December 2004 issue, vol. 95, no. 6, page 170, photograph "Movers and Shakers," Verlaine King should read Verlan King.



Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

WET SOIL . . .

Local weathermen have predicted a wetter than normal winter for the San Diego area. It has been a long time. Wet soil is easily compacted and care must be taken during planting and general caretaking. One rule of thumb is that if you are able to dig a trowelful of soil and form it into a ball with your hands, it is too wet to plant. The soil should fall apart. If you must venture into the garden, place some boards down to walk on. That will distribute the weight and there will be less danger of compacting the soil. (If you have an adobe soil you could loose your shoes! It gets really sticky when wet.)

GREEN ENERGY . . .

The 20 September 2004 *Newsweek* had some interesting information on experiments that are being made to discover renewable sources of energy. Knowing that plants obtain energy from the sun, researchers at MIT isolated the proteins that are involved in photosynthesis. They used spinach. This protein was mixed with a soap-like substance and spread between thin layers of conducting metal. When exposed to light the proteins give up electrons that produce a current. Unfortunately, the protein "goo" only lasts three weeks.

Other scientists are using plants to make ethanol, a replacement for fossil fuels. They also are trying to create other petrochemical substitutes. Currently the production of ethanol is done commercially

from corn, but experiments are being done on using switch grass, a prolific grower native to the western prairies. This would reduce production costs. The first biorefinery will be operating in three years.

It's not vegetative, but a power plant harnessing ocean waves has just opened off the coast of the Orkney Islands in Scotland. Another wave-harnessing plant will soon be operating near Sydney, Australia.

CLIVIAS . . .

Clivias have never been out of use, but the development of new colors has created interest. For years *Clivia miniata* has been a reliable problem solver plant, because they survive for years in dim and restricted areas. They are attractive year-round with dark-green strap-shaped leaves and magnificent in spring with their brilliant orange flowers. They do well with random fertilizing in spring and summer and little watering. Usually no water is needed if it rains during the winter.

Yellow clivias have been around for some time and are now reasonably priced. Also available are hybrids that are peach, pink, cream, green, brick tone, and deep red.

The first clivias were discovered in a South African forest and shipped to England in the early 1800s. They were called "kaffir lilies" or "forest lilies" and these old names are sometimes used, but not here.

Most homeowners divide the

plants, but seeds can be grown. Seeds are easy to produce but take months to ripen. The seedlings take three to four years to bloom.

Many plantings last twenty-five or more years, but when the beds get "scraggly," digging-up the plants, cultivating, and renewing the soil will give new vigor to the them.

BIG TREES . . .

At this time the biggest known tree in the world is a giant sequoia, General Sherman, in Sequoia National Forest (274.9 feet tall, 2.7 million pounds, 52,508 cubic feet). The tallest tree is a coast redwood near Ukiah named Mendocino (367 feet tall). Every year during the summer the hunt for a bigger tree goes on through the 70-odd groves of giant redwoods on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

Some of the giant sequoias are taller than the Statue of Liberty, over 3000 years old, with bark 30 inches thick. The largest are named. Washington is number two—47,850 cubic feet, 254.7 feet tall; General Grant is number three—46,608 cubic feet, 267.4 feet tall. If you have never been to Sequoia National Park, you have missed a really inspiring experience.

BARE-ROOT TIME . . .

Nurseries have bare-root trees in stock. A number of years ago San Diegans were thrilled to have an apple that would grow in our warm-winter climate. There are peaches that will grow here now.

CREATING A BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT

BY CAROL KILLEBREW

THE BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT group is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation. Its main purpose is education for habitat restoration for wildlife survival. The National Wildlife Federation has two Websites: www.nwf.org is for resources and to see other habitat gardens and www.enature.org is for information about birds and other animals.

GARDENING TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE

Making your garden attractive to wildlife—songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, toads, lizards, and other creatures—is primarily a matter of providing **shelter, water, and food**. It is also important to avoid using pesticides. Try to emphasize native plants, since they're familiar to our local wildlife and adapted to our climate. Also remember that a garden teeming with wildlife is not overly tidy; parts of it are left to grow naturally; providing safe havens for all sorts of creatures.

CERTIFICATION

Certifying your yard as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site rewards you for the dedication you have shown to making a place for wildlife in your world. When your habitat is certified, you will receive a handsome personalized Certificate of Achievement recognizing your yard as part of the National Registry of Backyard Wildlife sites. You also will begin receiving your free lifetime subscription to the quarterly Habitats newsletter and may purchase a weather resistant yard sign.

BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

FOOD:

- Provide seed- and fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.
- Provide flowering plants that supply nectar and pollen for butterflies, beneficial insects, and hummingbirds.
- Plant species whose foliage feed butterfly larvae.
- Include a wide variety of plants. Native plants are a good choice as they not only feed and house wildlife, they also require little water and no soil amendments or fertilizer. Some native plant resources on the internet are: www.TreeofLifeNursey.com and www.laspilatas.com
- Locate bird feeders near trees so birds can fly to cover.
- Maintain bird feeders through the winter when natural foods are scarce.

WATER:

- Must have at least one source—elevated bird bath,

ground water dishes, pond, or fountain

- Must be kept clean and filled regularly.
- Place in an open area to provide some protection from cats and other predators—10 feet from shrubs.

SHELTER-COVER AND PLACES TO NEST AND RAISE YOUNG:

- Provide a complete plant community with tall trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and ground cover.
- Rock walls, logs, or wood piles also can provide shelter.
- Nesting boxes can be provided facing away from prevailing weather and from bird feeders and other nesting boxes.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

PRACTICES/ORGANIC METHODS:

- Eliminate oil-based chemical insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. They disrupt the natural food chain and kill beneficial insects.
- Use compost and pasteurized manures instead of chemical fertilizers that are harmful to the necessary microorganisms in the soil.
- Mulch around your plants to reduce watering and prevent weeds.
- Try creating your own compost pile. □

Carol Killebrew is a Habitat Stewards Host with NWF. (killebrew@ix.netcom.com)

[Other groups have a similar-sounding goal. Through a cooperative project called "Backyard Conservation," the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) are asking homeowners and urban and suburban residents from coast to coast to help make one million backyards a "friendlier place for nature."

"This project seeks the common ground of conservation for people everywhere," NRCS Chief Pearlie Reed said, "whether your backyard is a 500-acre farm or a flower box on your apartment balcony. All citizens can enjoy a healthier nation because of the successful conservation efforts of America's farmers and ranchers."

The centerpiece of the project is a free, 28-page booklet that outlines ten conservation practices backyard conservationists can put to work on their own property or in their neighborhoods. Single copies of this booklet are available free to San Diego County residents by calling your local NRCS office at 760-745-2061. Editor]

SMILING ALONG WITH THE SUMACS®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL about sumac.

However, for a while there, I wasn't sure exactly what that something special was; I only knew that when I looked down to where the laurel sumac bushes were growing on our property, I would get a comforting, kind of happy feeling.

Perhaps it has to do with the values of the sumac family.

ALL IN THE SUMAC FAMILY

Although the sumac family (Anacardiaceae) of plants has 100-plus members worldwide, our area is home to less than a dozen. Here are the types of sumac native to San Diego County: laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina* or *Malosma laurina*); sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*); lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*); three varieties of basketbush or skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*); and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

Obviously, some of these are more valued than others.



Rhus ovata, sugar bush

EXOTIC FAMILY MEMBERS

Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and African sumac (*Rhus lancea*) are just a few of the diverse trees that are part of the sumac clan.

While many people are familiar with pepper trees, less is known about the African sumac, a very underused and unappreciated small evergreen tree that will put up with unfavorable and even horrific conditions such as extreme heat, wind, drought, songs performed by Eminem, etc.

If you want to glimpse an African sumac in the

wild, take a trip to the Wild Animal Park. Look for a dome-shaped, 25' tree with very slender, long leaves and rough, rich brown bark. You can plant one of these trees in your very own yard; they're easy to grow. If the tree is happy, the leaves will have a glossy look. If sad, the leaves will look dull and you should provide a Happy Hour by giving it a nice deep watering. African sumac is relatively pest-free. Its only drawback is that it suckers easily, but that also can be said of many other, higher organisms.

BACK TO NATIVE SUMACS

But getting back to our original question: Why would laurel sumac, and indeed our other native sumacs, make persons like me happy?

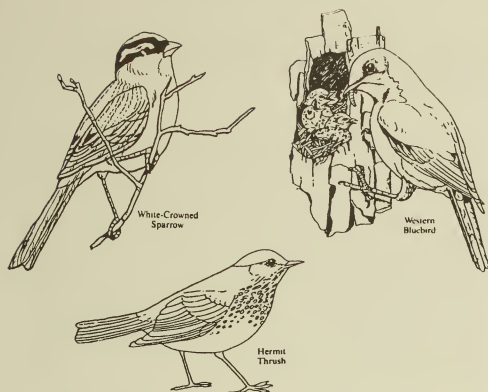
First of all, laurel sumac is a reliable, fast-growing, good-looking evergreen that provides a nice year-round background for smaller and more floriferous plantings. It can withstand extreme inland heat and drought. The 2-4" leaves are sort of taco-shell-shaped; new foliage is an attractive reddish-green. If given supplemental water, it grows very quickly. Water it deeply the first few summers, about once every few weeks, until it is well established. It is adaptable to many conditions.

Remember, though, that it is sensitive to hard frosts. If damaged, however, it will readily stump sprout, as mine did after the Cedar fire. *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes* by Bob Perry lists laurel sumac as a valuable watershed species that provides good slope and soil stabilization, wildlife habitat, and is not as flammable as high fire hazard species. The book suggests, however, that sumac could be thinned if necessary to reduce foliage mass.

Sumac's only drawback is that it is prone to branch dieback, which means that every once in awhile a branch or two will decide to turn brown. All the other branches will be doing just fine, but suddenly you will notice a splotch of tan among all the rich green. Just take up your shears and cut off the offending member; it won't take long and it's good exercise. And while you are schmoozing with your sumac, you may notice its pleasant scent, which falls somewhere between maple syrup and your favorite uncle's pipe tobacco. Anyway, next day you won't even miss it (the sumac branch, that is).

SINGING IN THE SUMACS

Last but not never least, sumacs are valuable to



wildlife, including many songbirds. According to Claude Edwards, San Diego-based wildlife biologist, bird expert, and coordinator of the annual San Diego Bird Festival (February 9-13 this year), native sumac species produce berries that provide food for local birds such as the hermit thrush, western bluebird, yellow-rumped warbler, California thrasher, house finch, golden-crowned sparrow, and white-crowned sparrow. Among the types of sumac, the oil-rich berries of laurel sumac and poison oak are especially important energy-laden food sources actively sought out by these birds. For information on festivals:

www.sandiegonaaturefestivals.org/birdfest.

Right now, I bet you are thinking to yourself, "I can believe that laurel sumac berries are nutritious, but poison oak?"

Yes, Virginia, there is some good in poison oak—just like there is some good in almost every creature (except telemarketers).

Examples of the concept "You wash my back, I'll wash yours," are alive and well in nature: Sumacs provide berries as food to birds. Enclosed within the flesh of each berry are their seeds. Birds gobble the berries, then act as feathered farmers by excreting the seeds—some of which will germinate into new little sumac plants—onto the waiting earth.

The larger sumacs also provide cover and nesting opportunities for many kinds of birds.

MARTHA STEWART WOULD BE PROUD

LEMONADE BERRY is an excellent plant to use in the home garden. It's a good thing—it can achieve the 10'+ height of laurel sumac. The leaves of lemonade berry have lightly toothed edges. This sumac occurs naturally in areas closer to our coast. According to *Sunset Western Garden Book*, lemonade berry makes a

wonderful ground cover on rocky slopes exposed to salt-laden winds. It can sprawl over a wide area, even down cliffs. Inland, it can grow taller, be used as a formal hedge, and may even be espaliered against a fence, where it could be kept only 10" wide. (I don't know if you are impressed by this, but I am.) Tiny pinkish-white flowers occur around February, followed by flattish 1/4-1/2" berries in clusters. Branching is a bit more open than that of laurel sumac, or the following shrub, sugar bush.

SUGAR BUSH is a rounded evergreen shrub about 8'+ in height. Those persons with hot inland gardens will appreciate this species as it will withstand much heat and drought. Before its flowers open, the clusters of buds resemble tiny pinkish pearl-like pine cones; very attractive. After flowering, the resultant berries can be used (as can lemonade berry, naturally) to make a refreshing lemon-like drink. I obtained the directions from the book *A Taste of Nature* by Kahanah Farnsworth.

Here is the recipe (Martha Stewart, eat your heart out):

- ½ cup of berries
- 2 quarts of water
- 1 cup of sugar

Soak berries in water for ½ hour (or more, depending on if you forgot all about them while conversing on the phone). Then remove the berries and add sugar to taste.

The resultant beverage will resemble the flavored waters you can buy in the supermarket. But because the drink was made from your own fruit it will, of course, taste better than "store bought." If you want a more intense flavor, you are free to improvise with whatever you have laying around.

Meanwhile, the sugar bush berries you left behind will be feeding birds, and sugar bush branches will be providing perching spots for hairstreak butterflies. These perky little beauties have been observed spreading their chilly wings to absorb the rays of the rising sun.

BASKETBUSH or SKUNKBUSH is a deciduous sumac that reaches 5' or less in height. Native Americans split the stems and used them for wrapping the coils of their basket material; thus it received one of its common names. If you want to discover how it got the other common name, get a friend (or perhaps an enemy) to fondle the leaves of your basketbush—and you'll both find out.

On the plus side, the leaves of basketbush are small and three-lobed, and turn a brilliant yellow-to-red color in the autumn. A-tisket, a-tasket, if you want to make a basket, be sure to use basketbush instead of its sinister

cousin poison oak; both plant species have a similar look.



Rhus integrifolia, lemonade berry

SUMMING UP SUMAC

Considering their many attributes, sumacs may well remind us to appreciate all our native wild plants. After a frazzled day traveling over unforgiving concrete and hemmed in by misnamed bulbous recreational vehicles, the lucky gardener can arrive home, greeted by bird song and natural beauty. He or she can wander out, armed and abetted by a glass of lemonade berry lemonade (or chocolate milk if it's been an extra tough day), take a laurel sumac leaf, turn it bottom-side up and watch it form a smile. Maybe two smiles: one from the leaf and one on the gardener's face. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

Photograph on page 9 is from Tree of Life Nursery, 33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. 949-728-0685

WHEN YOU PATRONIZE OUR
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CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

SOIL THE BASIS OF A GREEN THUMB

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

IN SAN DIEGO, GARDENERS learn quickly how varied and poor our soil is. The native plants tell what kind of soil they need and use. Originally in our areas there were few if any groves of trees that could be called a forest. Palm trees that were native grew well in the backcountry but seldom along the coast. Our native growth consisted of low growing shrubs, cactus, yucca, and a broad variety of near desert plants and succulents.

Now San Diego gardeners have a plethora of plants growing in their gardens — most imports from around the world — because we have learned how to create the kind of dirt plants need. The inorganic material that goes into the makeup of a soil is derived from the decomposition of rocks into small particles ranging from pebbles to the fine silt that makes up clay. The decomposition takes place by the action of grinding, crushing, water action, temperature changes, and the like. Some elements get into the soil from the chemical action of air and water.

To make a good general purpose soil for most gardens is to make a loamy soil containing 40% or 50% silt, 30% sand, and the remainder made of organic material such as leaf mold, peat moss, grasses, and other plants whose vegetation decomposes both by biological and chemical action. After working with good loamy soil, you will find that grabbing a handful displays the consistency of the material. It should be slightly moist with lots of space between particles so that water and air can penetrate along with roots. Water should drain easily.

One of the important measures of a good soil is its pH factor; pH stands for hydrogen-ion concentration, which is a measure of the soil's alkalinity or acidity. Tropical plants and shade-loving plants want a slightly acid soil while sun-loving and desert-like plants do best in a slightly alkaline soil. Keep this in mind when you are growing potted plants. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

PLANTING AND PRUNING PEACHES AND NECTARINES

BY JOHN NOBLE



BITING INTO A TREE-RIPENED peach or nectarine stops time. The ripened scent, the soft juicy texture and the sweet delicious flavor is pure enjoyment!

The cultivation of peaches and nectarines is pretty much the same. A nectarine is a fuzzless peach. These fruit trees are vigorous growers, but they are somewhat short lived compared to other fruit trees. Generally after fifteen to twenty years their fruition is spent.

January is a good month for planting bare-root fruit trees. There are different cultivars to choose from. Do not choose your tree just by the fruit description. Ask your local nursery or one of the specialized fruit-tree nurseries for a cultivar that is disease resistant and that will produce fruit in your area of town. The microclimate is important for how the chill time will affect the fruit production.

Peaches and nectarines prefer a well-drained soil. If you have clay soil, make a raised planter for better drainage.

For bare-root planting:

- 1) dig a hole
- 2) amend soil with compost and a mild fertilizer
- 3) backfill amended soil into hole
- 4) compress soil into a pointed mound
- 5) mound should be two inches higher than soil level
- 6) spread bare roots over mound
- 7) cover firmly with remaining soil
- 8) make a well around tree
- 9) water deeply

Peaches and nectarines can be grown as small trees, or they can be espaliered into hedges, or they can be grown in pots. Choose dwarf varieties for espaliering or for pots.

January is a good month for pruning deciduous trees. General pruning tips include: removing any unhealthy branches, remove any crossing branches, if the angle between two branches is narrow (less than 30 degrees) remove one of them.



bare-root planting

Proper pruning is essential for growing healthy plants that bear fruit abundantly. **Learning where the fruit grows on the different fruit trees is very important.**

Peaches and nectarines produce fruit on the branches or branch tips that grew the previous year. They will only fruit there one time. Apples, apricots, plums and pears grow spurs that bear fruit in the same place year after year. Persimmons and pomegranates form fruit on the present year's growth.

Peach and nectarine trees are pruned with an open center. Instead of having a central trunk, the trees are trained to have three or four spreading vertical trunks, each with lateral scaffolding branches. This opens up the tree for easy harvesting. It is also important for the inner branches to get light and air for healthy fruit.

If your tree suffered from peach leaf curl the previous year you may want to spray it with a copper or lime sulfur spray while it is dormant. Spray the entire tree after pruning.

A healthy tree or espalier will produce abundantly. With a strong scaffolding branch system it can support the weight of the fruit. If you see a branch laden with too much fruit give it some support with a wood plank.

Sometimes trees will produce many small fruits. Early in the season this is okay. The trees will then naturally drop many of their small fruits in late spring. But if you want large fruit at harvest time you may need to continue thinning the fruit to every five to ten inches.

Enjoy. Eat a peach!

John Noble is second vice-president of San Diego Floral Association. He is a partner in two businesses: In Harmony Herbs and Coastal Sage Gardening.

GROWING BLACKBERRIES ON THE COAST

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

BLACKBERRIES ARE AGGRESSIVE PLANTS in our long growing season, and they need to be put somewhere where they can be kept under control. They are worth the extra effort because even a few plants will produce a prodigious crop. When really ripe, the fruit is very perishable and so there is no way that you can get high quality blackberries at the supermarket. Boysenberries and youngberries are good varieties for our climate, but we have settled on olallie berries.

Bare-root plants are available in **January**, and four to six in an eight-foot row will supply plenty of fruit for a family. They should be supported on four or five wires strung horizontally between two sturdy six-foot poles. The first year there will be no fruit on the new canes. They should be tied to the wire supports as they grow up to about eight feet and then should be topped to encourage side growth. In the spring the previous year's new growth will send out flowering shoots from both the main canes and the side growth.

The berries ripen over about a month beginning in mid-May, but the bulk of the crop comes on over two weeks or less when I sometimes pick three or four plastic strawberry boxes a day. They need to be fully ripened to develop their sweetness and are best picked in the afternoon when the sun is bright. The ripe fruit is black, showing no traces of red. It loses its sheen and separates easily from the stem. Mildew attacks the fruit if it is overripe and so the vines should be harvested every day or two. The fruit loses its quality rapidly after picking and so you should immediately freeze the fruit you do not plan to eat fresh. The fruit needs no blanching, and I simply spread it on a metal cookie sheet. After a night in the freezer, it can be transferred to zip lock bags and will keep well for a year or more when frozen.

The berries remain somewhat tart, even when fully ripe, and so we don't often sit down to a whole bowl of them as we would raspberries or strawberries. They are excellent sprinkled on ice cream or stirred into yoghurt. Summer pudding with mixed berries is so delicious that we put up with the extra calories. You could sprinkle them on dry cereal if you are inclined to eat such stuff. Most of our crop gets reduced to sauces and coulis, which add some zip to both meat dishes and desserts through the rest of the year.

When the harvest is finished, the old canes should be cut back to the ground. The new canes will be several feet in length and probably will be sprawled on the ground. They should be trained up as before and topped when they reach six to eight feet. When the weather turns cold the side growth should be removed to about eighteen inches above

the ground and the other side shoots should be cut back to three or four feet in length.

Blackberries are tolerant of poor soil and dry conditions. However, they respond well to monthly watering and to fertilizing when the new growth begins and when the new canes are topped about mid-September. Our plants are heavily infested with rust in the fall. From published descriptions, I believe it is orange rust (*Gymnoconia nitens*) because it spares the raspberries that grow within a few feet. The infection is systemic and spraying is useless. The literature states that the rust will weaken the plants and prevent blossoms from developing, but my experience has been that the plants remain vigorous and produce plenty of fruit, even when plastered with fungus. □

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

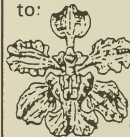
Reprinted, with permission, from the May 2002 "The Spindrift," the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla [California].

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$15.00 (single membership) or \$20.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



Tess Taylor
SDCOS Membership
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176
tess_mazza@hotmail.com



ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS® FOR 2005

Gaillardia aristata 'Arizona Sun'

Flower color: mahogany red center with golden yellow petal tips

Form: Single

Dimensions: Plant 8-10" tall, 10-12" wide;

Flower 2-3"

Foliage color: dark green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 90 to 100 days

Location: full sun

Features: summer blooming annual, plants are uniform and spreading, good cut flower, attracts butterflies



Catharanthus rosea 'First Kiss Blueberry', vinca

Flower color: Violet-blue with darker center

Form: 2", single

Dimensions: 10-12" tall, 14-16" wide

Foliage color: glossy dark green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 60-70 days

Features: first violet-blue vinca, thrives in high temperatures, drought tolerant, needs half to full day sun, good container plant



Zinnia elegans F₁ 'Magellan Coral'

Flower color: coral

Form: 4-6" fully double

Dimensions: 12-17" tall, 15-19" spread

Foliage color: green

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 6-9 weeks

Features: stunning color, long blooming summer annual, easy-to-grow from seed, full sun



Eggplant F₁ 'Fairy Tale'

Fruit size: 1-2" at shoulder and 4-6" long

Plant dimensions: 18-24", 24" spread

Color: lavender/purple with white stripes running lengthwise

Location: full sun

Length of time from transplanting to harvest: 45-55 days

Features: Small plant, early, sweet fruit, designed for small space or container



Tomato F₁ 'Sugary'

Fruit size: 1 1/2" by 1", about 1/2 ounce

Plant dimensions: 6' or more, 2-3' spread

Color: rosy pink

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 80 days

Location: full sun

Features: sweet flavor, low calorie, "cherry" sized, resist craking better, vigorous vines flower, set, and ripen fruit continuously throughout growing season



Winter Squash F₁ 'Bonbon'

Fruit size: 6" diameter

Plant dimensions: 8' spreading vine

Color: dark green with silver stripes, dark orange flesh

Length of time from sowing seed to harvest: 88 days

Features: improved "buttercup" type winter squash, vigorous short vines, sweet, stringless, smooth when cooked



Text adapted and drawings courtesy of ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS, a nonprofit organization, whose office is in Downers Grove, Illinois, 630-963-0770, www.all-americaelections.org

San Diego Horticultural Society

Garden Preview Party

Preview to the 20th Annual Spring Home/Garden Show

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Members/\$35, Non-members/\$45

- ☆ Be first to see the display gardens of the Spring Home/Garden Show
- ☆ Meet the Garden Masters & learn about their wonderful exhibits
- ☆ Mingle with Garden Masters, Judges & San Diego garden lovers
- ☆ Celebrate Horticulturist of the Year SDHS founder Don Walker
- ☆ Be first to learn the winners of the Garden Master Awards
- ☆ Enjoy a lavish "Very Berry & Chocolate Fondue" Dessert Buffet
- ☆ Wander at your leisure without the crowds

Party info: (760) 436-0460 or party@sdhortsoc.org

Enjoy the fun at this year's Expanded

Spring Home/Garden Show

March 4, 5 & 6, Del Mar Fairgrounds

*Includes Gardens on Display, Huge Plant Sale,
FREE talks by experts, & kids garden activities!*

Show Details at
www.sdhortsoc.org



Meetings 2nd Monday each month 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Surfside Race Place

Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.
Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- ☞ Monthly 26-page newsletter
- ☞ Seed & plant swap
- ☞ Trips to outstanding gardens
- ☞ Video and book library
- ☞ Local garden tours
- ☞ Annual Garden Party
- ☞ Discounts at nurseries
- ☞ and much more!

Upcoming Meetings:

January 10: Chinese Classical Gardens

Artist and gardener Erik Gronborg shares his recent trip to China and discusses the unique art of Chinese gardens.

February 14: Seeing Color in a Different Light

British horticulturist Karen Platt is an expert on foliage color and will talk about effectively using black, gold and silver in your garden.

Buy our lavishly illustrated book,
Ornamental Trees of San Diego, only \$34.95

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 730-3268



Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BRUSH leaves with a soft brush to remove dust.

TO WASH plants if needed. Try putting tin foil under lowest leaves and around pot. Lean plant under warm water at sink. Use a brush or gently rub leaves with fingers. Dry droplets of water, particularly in centers of plants, using a paper towel to remove moisture.

TO REFRAIN from placing violets in direct sunlight until completely dry to avoid burning leaves resulting in spotty discoloration.

TO AVOID placing plants in cold or drafty areas, which could stunt growth.

TO PLACE violets where morning sun comes into an area where there is some air circulation to promote growth and avoid mildew.

TO ROTATE plants a quarter turn weekly to maintain symmetry in leaves.

TO ENJOY the beauty violets bring into our world.

BEGONIAS

American Begonia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.

TO KEEP plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.

TO START cutting back cane-type and shrub-like types.

TO ADD more planting mix as needed to keep roots covered.

TO SPRAY for mildew.

TO CONTROL slugs, snails, mealybugs, and loopers.

TO START, in February, tuberous types for summer blooms.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO COLLECT native stock in the California region, where permitted. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.

TO GRAFT conifers, deciduous, and evergreen trees.

TO USE lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.

TO REDUCE watering if a rainy period.

TO PRUNE fruit-bearing bonsai.

TO WATCH for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

TO REMEMBER NOT to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.

TO START in February to repot and transplant some varieties if weather is favorable.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth, or any other suitable material.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least 2 inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

TO BE careful when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

TO EMPTY water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.

TO CUT the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

TO NOT fertilize until weather begins to warm.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMEMBER to rest winter-dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold—water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.

TO PROTECT outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

TO WATCH new cuttings—they may not root quickly. If you can supply bottom heat you should not

have much of a problem.

TO KEEP an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings—use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

TO CLEAN up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

TO NOTE those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK out nurseries that sell natives. Las Pilitas in Escondido has many fine native plants and knowledgeable staff.

TO FINISH planting wildflower seeds. You might consider planting a meadow. If you get it through the first season, you will have repeat blooms each year that we get enough rainfall. You may let it grow naturally amongst the weeds and grass.

TO CHECK for insects and snails around your plants. Remember to weed around your newly planted shrubs and perennials. Natives compete poorly with weeds for vital nutrients.

TO SUPPLEMENT the winter rains with deep, infrequent watering. Remember the key to a drought-tolerant plant is to have the roots go deep. The roots grow during the late fall and winter on most natives. The tops grow during the warmer part of the year.

TO KEEP the area around your natives free of debris that may harbor pests and diseases.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BUY plants in bloom. Some plants that do well in San Diego are; **Red**: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kraemer's Supreme', 'Rudolph', 'Nuccio's Bella Rosa'; **Pink**: 'Tiffany', 'Elsie Jury', 'Al Gunn', 'Debutante', 'Valentine Day'; **White**: 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Scentuous' (fragrant), 'Tata'; **Variegated**: 'Emma Gaeta Variegated', 'Adolphe Audusson Special', 'Dixie Knight Supreme', 'Rudolph Variegated'; **Multi-colored**: 'Margaret Davis'.

TO PLANT or transplant camellias. Do not transplant camellias when out of bloom. Most camellias prefer part shade — a northern or eastern exposure. If south or west exposure is required, they should be provided about 50% shade by some means. Varieties of

sasanqua and vernalis can take nearly full sun.

TO CONTINUE feeding in January with a low nitrogen fertilizer (0-10-10 or 2-10-10) and iron. Adding gypsum can help to prevent tip burn on leaves.

TO CONTINUE to disbud if larger but fewer blooms are desired.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DIG any tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

TO STORE tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

TO INSPECT those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

TO START in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus, and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

TO SPROUT some selected roots in February—these make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAKE advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

TO PROTECT plants from unexpected frost and strong wintery winds.

TO BAIT for snails and slugs.

TO SPRAY insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene, malathion, and Cygon available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

TO PRUNE out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

TO FEED mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids, especially maidenhair.

TO WATER gently, but do not soak. On cool nights soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants—they may remain dry.

TO TRIM off old fronds in frost free areas.

TO FERTILIZE *Platyceriums* (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof & horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

TO REMOVE and remount *Platycerium* pups.

TO PLANT spores.

TO CHECK for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites are very small and may not be seen. Fronds will be silvery on top and start to turn brown. Spray with malathion or miticide.

TO REPOT, rebasket, and divide ferns in frost free areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO FINISH pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

TO PRUNE evergreens just before or when new growth begins.

TO SPRAY dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

TO SPRAY dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

TO PLANT dormant bare-root trees and vines.

TO PAINT the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

TO PROVIDE frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.

TO CLEAN up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots, and around ground plants.

TO SPRAY remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.

TO KEEP plants moist but not wet.

TO FEED with a good fertilizer—fish (10-5-5) or a slow release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.

TO USE insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.



HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BREATHE in deeply the fragrance of your herb garden, during or after a winter rain.

TO PLANT seeds of winter-flowering herbs — calendula, borage, nasturtium.

TO PRUNE back winter deciduous shrubs and trees — ginkgo, vixen, lemon verbena.

TO WEED around and give space to any struggling herbs.

TO AMEND the soil throughout the garden.

TO BREW fresh tea with your backyard herbs — mints, dandelion, thyme, sage.

TO APPRECIATE and use our native herbs — black sage, white sage, sagebrush, yerba santa.

TO BAKE a fresh loaf of rosemary-flavored bread.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old brown fans off the tall bearded. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

TO MAKE last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.

TO WATCH watering, if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.

TO START a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.

TO START in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over fertilize.

ORCHIDS

Charley Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK the moisture in pots of outdoor-growing orchids including *Cymbidiums* under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.

TO CONTINUE to stake new spikes on *Phalaenopsis* and *Cymbidiums*. Do not rotate plant once spike has started.

TO FEED with a low-nitrogen-high-phosphorus fertilizer on *Cymbidiums* and an even 18-18-18 on *Phalaenopsis*, *Vandas*, and *Ascocentrums*. Remember, when the days are over 75 degrees these plants are active and some in the vandacious alliance are very heavy feeders.

TO KEEP noble-type *Dendrobiums* on the dry side through the winter. When the buds start to swell in the spring, then you can resume a normal water and fertilizer sequence.

TO MAINTAIN antelope type *Dendrobiums* (evergreen) like *Phalaenopsis*. They require warmth. The flower spikes will come from the top leaf axils most of the time.

TO WATER early in the morning so the plants will be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER the fertilizer requirements of orchids are minuscule compared to other branches of the plant kingdom. Trace minerals such as calcium, magnesium (Epsom Salts), copper, and boron can benefit most orchids. These can be found in the complete fertilizers available at local nurseries. It is often more useful to feed quarter-strength at each watering as it makes nutrients available up to five times more often.

TO WATCH for little creepy crawlies. Slugs, snails, scale, mealy bug, whitefly, etc. These may show activity on warm days. Contact your local orchid nursery for the latest and safest pest deterrent.

TO ALWAYS be aware of possible weather changes that would conflict with your successful orchid growing.

PELARGONIUMS

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a complete fertilizer. If soilless mix is used, a fertilizer with micronutrients is needed. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

TO CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program. Use all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO PRUNE any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants that were previously pruned can be cut back again to produce compact plants. Tip pinch plants that were pruned in the fall.

TO MAKE cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

TO PROTECT plants from freezing. Temporary coverings may be used.

TO CONTINUE to rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

PLUMERIA

Southern California Plumeria Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE for spring start up.

TO MOVE your *Plumeria* to a full-sun area after the last frost.

TO BEGIN watering moderately until leaf development begins (1-2 inches). Do not use catch basins under your pots.

TO WATER and feed when leaves are 2-3 inches long with a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as a 6-10-10.

TO TAKE cuttings before leaf development. Wait until April to plant.

TO TRANSPLANT using a well-drained soil mix.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAINTAIN a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

TO STRIP any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December, you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and rust. Roses grown away from other plants are easier to maintain as they require a regular routine of feeding, watering, and cleanliness. Many problems can be controlled by hosing them off early in the morning.

TO PLANT new bushes in holes you prepared earlier. If planting a new rose as a replacement, you will be well advised to supplement the planting mix with soil taken from another area of the garden, along with superphosphate at the bottom of the hole. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up around the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

TO PRUNE established hybrid teas mid-January through Valentine's Day. Attend the demonstrations of your local garden clubs held in municipal rose gardens to observe pruning practices and share information with participating members.

TO FEED new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom leaving the new growth intact.

TO APPLY rose food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will help get your bushes off to a good

start. Frequent small feedings will produce continuous blooms and beautiful roses throughout the year.

TO MAINTAIN moisture level at all times by filling your water basins at least twice a week.

TO WATCH for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

TO CONTROL mildew by washing off foliage in the early morning or spray weekly with a fungicide.

TO FINGER PRUNE when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

TO MAINTAIN a clear area around your bushes to discourage rust fungus, which will show up on the undersides of the leaves when present. Keep infected leaves picked off and dispose of in closed containers.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE ROSES!

If you missed the presentations provided at various sites where volunteers demonstrate recommended pruning practices, you may wish to visit after the event to observe the result.

Roses grown here in Southern California achieve bushes of a size that is unusual and unknown to many new residents from other areas where winter weather destroys many bushes and replacement yearly is required. Hard to imagine, when here many rosarians have grown the same bushes for twenty-five to thirty years.

Pruning will help keep the plant under control. Many roses will become extremely large if allowed unlimited growth. Pruning will renew the growth and result in abundant bloom. The best growth comes from basal growth—that new cane that came directly from the graft union. Because our roses seldom go naturally dormant here, pruning and defoliation provide a shock to spur the process and give the plant the natural rest it needs.

The usual rule of thumb is to remove $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the growth of an established bush. If you have a bush that is only one year old and did not grow a lot, you may want to prune it only lightly or even not at all.

Suckers, growth from below the bud union, must be removed clean to the bud union. This is probably the rule most ignored by new rosarians. This will produce blooms unlike the ones you want and if left on the bush will frequently take over—resulting in bushes that once produced pink or yellow flowers producing red blooms.

Lack of rainfall during the past year should encourage you to deep water your bushes (beds) several times during this period of rest to cleanse the beds of salt build-up that occurs during the growing period. Such soil amendments as superphosphate, iron, epsom salts, and gypsum may be added at this time. Wait a few weeks until new growth is actually started before adding rose foods.

I avoid products that profess to curtail pests along with giving nutrients to the bush. Ammonium sulfate is great—for keeping your lawns green!

Remember—there is no RIGHT way to grow roses! If what you are doing is working for you—do not change!

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor UC Coop Extension NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga, and turnip.

TO USE floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

TO PLANT dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb.

TO PLANT seeds of medium-day-length onions such as 'White Sweet Spanish', 'Stockton Yellow Globe', and 'Italian Red' (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

TO ORDER seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce — Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verbena, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip — baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus, delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).



THE WRITINGS OF GUY FLEMING

OUR TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY'S newest publication is *Guy Fleming Writings and Related Articles*. In the years 1915 through 1956, Guy Fleming contributed articles for publication in the San Diego Floral Association's magazine *California Garden*.

I discovered these articles when doing research for a book about Kate Sessions, another contributor to *California Garden* and a friend of Fleming. Many articles were about Torrey Pines State Reserve; its history, efforts to save it, and plans for the future. Fleming paints a word picture of the spring flower bloom. He describes the role played by the Natural History Museum and the San Diego Floral Association in developing the area.

One series of reports was called "Californians Abroad" in which he explains how some plant species native to our area are now thriving in other parts of the state, country, and world.

Another series he named "Wanderings." As he wandered about the county, he wrote accounts describing the geography and plant life in Mahogany Canyon, Alpine, Descanso, Banner Grade, Carrizo Creek, with special attention to the Anza Borrego area. He also relates his observations on a trip the length of California, Oregon, and Washington.

Guy Fleming Writings and Related Articles

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☐ \$15.00 nonmembers (book, tax, mailing)
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Occasionally he would write a seasonal article such as "The Mysterious Mistletoe," "Christmas Green," "Rainbows," or "Camp Kearny and Its Planting Problems."

The "Related Articles" portion includes a 1916 editorial by A.D. Robinson, the editor of *California Garden* magazine. You will find a 1922 brief biography, "The Beloved Professor" by Lena Hunzicker. Robert Mansfield writes about "Torrey Pine Origin Lost in Mystery." Lila Fleming contributed a story titled "Autumn Gold."

Fans of Guy Fleming will enjoy traveling with him in his wanderings of appreciation for nature's beauty and his efforts to preserve and protect what he observed.

by Kay Harry

Antonelli Brothers

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KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
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Book Reviews

complete commentary on each. At the back of the book are notes on propagation, nomenclature, mail order nurseries, and plant societies. This would be a great book to curl up with and savor, a few pages at a time, winter or summer.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PLANTS IN GARDEN HISTORY: An Illustrated History of Plants and Their Influence on Garden Styles - from Ancient Egypt to the Present Day **Penelope Hobhouse**

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2005, 319 pages, 220+ color photos, 10" x 10", softcover, \$24.95

Here is a book to curl up with for the next twenty years, it is so full of beauty and appreciation for the art and craft of gardening. First published eight years ago, it is a glorious compendium of garden and cultural history that clearly validates the author's reputation as the *doyenne* of British gardening. Her grasp of this huge subject and the ease and grace with which she shares it with the reader is truly impressive. Included in her presentation are many botanical and architectural drawings, paintings, and color photographs, selected and placed with care.

A brief description of European gardening begins with the introduction of bulbs from the Middle East in the sixteenth century, followed by the importation of trees, shrubs, and perennials from North America from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, and the subsequent arrivals of annuals and other tender plants from South America and Asia. The fact that some of these plants failed to thrive in Europe led to the development of new species and/or a passion for collecting difficult ones, experimentation, and the broadening of horticultural practices.

The author then jumps back to 2000 B.C., mostly in Egypt and the Middle East, where many artifacts and ruins indicate an early interest in plants and gardens. Gardens of Islam are especially significant, as they combined the Koran's admonition to protect nature with the scientific pursuit of knowledge. Here are the origins for the geometric forms that persisted in garden design for many hundreds of years, not only in the Moorish gardens of Spain, but in the herbal plantings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance pleasure gardens of Italy and France.

In marked contrast to ancient gardens that provided shelter from the harshness of the desert, British landscape design of the nineteenth century aimed

THE COLLECTOR'S GARDEN: Designing with Extraordinary Plants **Ken Druse**

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 256 pages, 400+ color photos, 8½" x 11", softcover, \$29.95.

"Designing with Extraordinary Plants", the subtitle of this gorgeous book, whose brilliant photos of landscapes and plants take the reader through twenty-eight American gardens from coast to coast. The author has organized his tour according to various categories of "plant nuts:" hunters, missionaries, aesthetes, and specialists. Thus he describes the various motivations that prompt gardeners to choose certain plants and make them their own. Garden sizes vary but their owners' passions fit whatever space is available: one Missourian has everything in pots or cracks in the sidewalk.

The section on hunters allows the author to survey the history of plant exploration before taking the reader to a collector of Asian plants and two men who specialize in plants from south of the border. Rhododendrons and California natives are the specialties of other gardens, all nurtured by people who simply must find and have the rarest, hardest to grow or flower, of their chosen horticultural quarry. Given the wide range of topics, nearly every type of garden and plant genera is represented in these pages. From *Arums*, which only grow in the dark, to daylilies and grasses, there is a garden where these and other plants are the obvious stars.

Throughout the book full page color photos not only capture the specific beauty of plants but also convey the essence of the garden they inhabit. The text is in an easy conversational style, much as any gardener would share with a visitor. Each site has its own particular significance, be it historical, botanical, or artistic; and the author provides a leisurely and

toward the re-creation of the natural environment and now, Hobhouse notes, gardeners seek to create a haven from an outside world made harsh by human activity. As we move into the twenty-first century, the book closes with descriptions of California gardening and a new direction: the need to adjust landscape design to climate and local growing conditions.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF A GARDEN

Colin Spedding and Geoffrey Spedding

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 253 pages, 35 color photos, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$24.95

Wildlife in the garden includes everything from bugs to birds and this very detailed volume tells how to see it and how to incorporate the elements into a total view of nature and the world around us. The author's home in England is set in a large garden with woods and bogs, where everything that grows, flies, or crawls can be found. He has collaborated with his son, who lives in Los Angeles, to introduce the beauty and wonder of nature to readers prepared to delve into this very complete survey. It is full of diagrams, drawings, and tables, but, alas, only a few photos.

The book begins with ideas for looking around a garden, in search of its natural elements. This includes plants and animals, but also the soil, seasons, and general ecology of how they all work together. One chapter focuses on the need for certain controls of "natural conditions" to ensure healthy conditions in a garden. His discussion of the use of chemicals includes a listing of "natural" toxins, such as those of the adder, toad, bee, wasp, red ant, yew tree, and bracken. In general, he takes a benign view of the use of chemicals where no other option is effective. But he also presents ways that nature provides biological controls, as in ladybugs on aphids, mites controlling other mites, and nematodes controlling slugs! Plant competition is another example given for garden control.

Originally conceived as a guide for introducing children to wildlife in the garden, this book is a true compendium of all things natural. It is well organized and much of its information is in the form of lists, graphs, or charts. A glossary, list of abbreviations, and suggestions for further reading on this subject are found at the end.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

HIBISCUS: Hardy and Tropical Plants for your Garden

Barbara Perry Lawton

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 184 pages, 49 color photos, 17 line drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$27.95

Hibiscus grows so readily in Southern California that we might tend to take it for granted, but this author demonstrates that this is a plant to treasure for its utility as well as its beauty. With over 220 species, many of which are indigenous to North America, including one with fibers more economical than wood for paper making, and another with a calyx that is edible and can be used for medicinal purposes.

The subtitle refers to the "hardy" native perennial and woody species, that originate in the southeastern United States, and the "tropics" indigenous to Mexico and the desert regions of the Southwest. A native of China is the "tropical" *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, which is the origin of most modern hybrids. The author, who gardens in Missouri, claims that the hardiest ornamental of all is *H. syriacus*, the rose of Sharon: among its many assets is the total disdain that deer have for its leaves (the flowers are another matter).

A survey of hibiscus history and its place in various cultures is followed by some good information about some of its relatives, okra and cotton being the most interesting. A large section of color photos present botanical illustrations, close-up and landscape views of various hibiscus varieties, cultivation methods and the effects of pests. A chapter on propagation demonstrates the range of ways that hibiscus can be seeded, air-layered, cross pollinated, or started with cuttings.

Botany and taxonomy discussions precede a gallery of three dozen principal species, including plant name definitions, descriptions, and where they can be grown. Lovely botanical drawings accompany this section as well as the following ones on cultivars of the rose of Sharon and various other hardy and tropical varieties. A glossary of terms is at the end of the book.

Of interest to local readers is a lengthy mention of Ross Gast as a major figure in the development of ornamental hibiscus. Following his long association with the Los Angeles Arboretum, Gast passed on his hybridizing techniques and many of his cultivars to Gil Voss at Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

MAXIMIZING WATER CONSERVATION DURING RAINY WEATHER

BY LUIS GENEROSO

MANY PARTS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, including San Diego, received record-breaking rainfall during the month of October. With all that water, it might seem like the need to conserve water no longer exists, but it's actually the best time to make the most of the rain by using water wisely. As residents and business owners gear up for more potential wet weather this winter, the City of San Diego Water Department advises San Diegans to reinforce homes or businesses with the appropriate indoor and outdoor water saving fixtures to not only protect their property, but also to maximize water conservation efforts.

"More than half the water San Diegans use goes toward landscape irrigation," said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego Water Department. "So if there are things we can do to use water wisely outdoors during heavy rains, it will make a huge difference in the amount of water we conserve and add to our local water supply."

Following are just a few tips homeowners and businesses can use to protect their property and make the most of the cold, wet weather with water conservation:

Direct your rain gutters toward the plants in your landscaped areas.

Install rain sensors on your sprinkler system to prevent over-watering your lawn with an automatic shut-off for rainy days. You also can manually turn off your system when it rains.

Cover exposed soil surfaces with a layer of mulch or netting. This will help to retain the water in the soil by reducing the amount of water that is lost through evaporation, prevent erosion, and prevent the invasion of weeds.

Place buckets and containers outside to collect the rainwater. You can then use this water for indoor plants.

Create your own customized watering schedule for your sprinkler system by using the free online Landscape Watering Calculator. The system is

completely free and easy to use, and provides an accurate schedule for how often and how much you should water according to the seasons and the types of plants in your landscape. Log on to www.sandiego.gov/water to access it.

Insulate your water pipes to help speed up the process for getting warm water to your faucets. This means less cold water lost down the drain while you are waiting for the water to heat up.

Control erosion around your home during heavy rains by using wooden deflector barriers, such as plywood, or sandbags to rechannel mudflow safely around structures. Sandbags should be filled half-full with sand or soil and the flaps tied under or pointed in the direction of the water source. Bags should be tightly fitted and each layer staggered, like building a brick wall. Rows should be no more than three layers high, unless they form a pyramid or are supported by a building. For additional tips on erosion control, get a copy of "*A Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management At the Chaparral/Urban Interface*" by logging onto www.sandiego.gov or calling 619-235-1984. Or contact your local flood control office for additional tips and information.

Before the rains come, homeowners and businesses can prepare their property with these simple water saving measures to make the most out of rainwater. Rain or shine, water conservation is a part of the San Diegan lifestyle. Join in on the effort to use water wisely all year, no matter what the weather forecast.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619-515-3500. □

Luis Generoso is the Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego Water Department.



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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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2005

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April 19

June 21

October 18

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

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Alpine CA 91903-0532

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Box 9424

San Diego CA 92169-0424

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER
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Information: 949-499-5518

P. O. Box 742

Laguna Beach CA 92652-0742

E-mail: marshab@gte.net

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
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Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721

2125 Park Boulevard

San Diego CA 92101-4792

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Encinitas CA 92023-0005

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404 Third Avenue

San Diego CA 92101-6803

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Horticulture Dept 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298

P. O. Box 120551

San Diego CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL

Chr: Carolyn Epple 858-484-0867

12675 Via Colmenar

San Diego CA 92129-2229

1st Wed - 10:30 am

Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, North County Fair,

Escondido, Community Room

SAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY

Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501

1455 49th Street

San Diego CA 92102-2625

1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 am, Casa del Prado

Feb, Mar, Apr, Sep, Oct, Nov

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Librarian: Joan Endres

619-660-0614

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr W

El Cajon CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS

P. O. Box 2711

858-459-0316

La Jolla CA 92038-2711

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3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687

San Diego CA 92117-6802

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Attn: Lucy Warren

858-792-4273

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Del Mar CA 92014-2216

E-Mail: flowershow@sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Vickie V. Driver

858-522-6760

4677 Overland Ave.

San Diego CA 92123-1233

E-Mail: vdriver@sdcwa.org

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-730-3268

P. O. Box 231869

Encinitas CA 92023-1869

2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except Jun

Surfside Race Place

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1928 Madison Avenue

619-298-7641

San Diego CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:

ALPINE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716

2451 Night Star Court

Alpine CA 91901-1449

1st Fri - 10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS

Pres: Clara Garner 858-592-9533

17895 Bernardo Trails Place

San Diego CA 92128-1503

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Laura Rockwell 619-435-1631

819 First Street

Coronado CA 92118-1301

E-mail: lrock1221@sbcglobal.net

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Bonita Wesleyan Church,

5305 Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ann Williams 619-435-1417

1101 Coronado Avenue

Coronado CA 92118-2440

4th Mon - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

CARLSBAD NEWCOMERS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Patricia Smutz 760-931-2615
1208 Spar Court
Carlsbad CA 92009-2500
2nd Wed - Call for meeting information

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box B
Chula Vista CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu - 11:45 am, Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Pres: Sonni Arndt 619-437-0199
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado CA 92118-0188

★CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Loie Wilkens 619-435-0858
851 "J" Avenue
Coronado CA 92118-2414
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sandi Lord 760-727-7614
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center CA 92082-0123
E-mail: sandilord@earthlink.net
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerri Patchett 760-723-8635
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, FPU D Bldg on Mission Rd
Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chrm: Mrs. Neil Powers 858-755-2689
4644 Terraza Mar Marvelos
San Diego CA 92130-4675
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jody Petersen 858-729-0711
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla CA 92038-2713
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
P. O. Box 301582
Escondido CA 92030-1582
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo Library (new), 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Carol Ballard 760-630-3580
3468 Carnelian Lane
Oceanside CA 92056-4853
3rd Sat - 12:45 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)
Meetings Sep thru Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sherri Schottlaender 619-295-2702
4019 Goldfinch Street, #166
San Diego CA 92103-1897
4th Wed - 6:30 pm, Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw Street

★POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dolly Hartman 619-276-0209
4991 September Street
San Diego CA 92110-1219
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Center
1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd
Guests welcome

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

President: Gail Matson 858-486-8969
P. O. Box 27
Poway CA 92074-0027
2nd Wed - 9:00 am, Lake Poway Pavilion

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Donna Ferrier 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483

★SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Joyce McManus 619-449-3230
9943 Beck Drive
Santee CA 92071-4509
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Homes of Members

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284
1105 Santa Madeira Court
Solana Beach CA 92075-1620
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Ann Zahner 858-454-8088
5672 Bellevue Avenue
La Jolla CA 92037-7525
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ

VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Rosella Pelzer 760-724-7656
P. O. Box 44
Vista CA 92085-0044
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

KEBANAS SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF KEBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Drive
Spring Valley CA 91978-1034

KEBANAS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Mrs. Peter Gaskin 619-758-9609
4484 Long Branch Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-2303
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

IKENOBU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Drive
San Diego CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF KEBANA

LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 am, La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF KEBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 619-276-4667
2936 Havasupai Avenue
San Diego CA 92117-1641

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF KEBANA

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Drive
San Diego CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF KEBANA

Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Drive
San Diego CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-9972
3435 Jasmine Crest
Encinitas CA 92024-7036
4th Mon - 10:00 am - Vista Library,
700 Eucalyptus Avenue

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
467 Fulvia
Encinitas CA 92024-2146
2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland Street
San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON BON NO ASSOCIATION

Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless Street
San Diego CA 92126-5514
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)

10:30 am, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF

BALBOA PARK

Pres: David Ellsworth 619-286-5636
3688 College Avenue
San Diego CA 92115-7040
2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Tom Knapik 619-462-1805
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego CA 92138-3996
2nd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Nov & Dec

NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422
610 Rockledge Street
Oceanside CA 92054-4230
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building,
Quail Gardens

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

P. O. Box 840
Escondido CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr., Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Pam Badger 619-589-1223
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd
La Jolla CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego CA 92129-1116
E-mail: djsj21643@aol.com
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Contact: Kathy Payne 760-789-5790
1551 Cedar Street
Ramona CA 92065-1327
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Irene Sias 619-491-9495
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego CA 92112-6127
Website: www.epiphyllum.com
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Robin Halley 858-454-2234
1418 Park Row
La Jolla CA 92037-3710
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Chair: David Silverstein 619-523-8565
4722 Coronado Avenue
San Diego CA 92107-3543
4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado
Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Clark Lohry 619-469-8936
1560 Primera Street
Lemon Grove CA 91945-4302
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HERB

HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 619-579-0222
P. O. Box 21091
El Cajon CA 92021-0983
1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Balboa Park Casa del Prado,
Room 101, no meeting July or Dec.

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Pat Brendel 760-806-7865
4703 Cordoba Way
Oceanside CA 92056-5109
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Avenue
Sherman Oaks CA 91423-3119
1st Thur - 7:30 pm -
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 619-685-7321

P. O. Box 121390
San Diego CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Road
Escondido CA 92029-6725
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo
Library (new), 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Vice Pres: Bruce Kidd 909-698-3061
39962 Via Espana
Murrieta CA 92562-5732

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Gary Pierwola 619-426-9108
E-mail: keikiman@aol.com
143 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista CA 91910-2506
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086
935 Rawhide Court
Bonita CA 91902-2422
4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church
at 4701 Sweetwater Road. Meeting in back.
EXCEPT Aug & Dec

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553
El Cajon CA 92021-0940
4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct
Casa del Prado, Room 102
E-mail: c.herzog@att.net

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Roger English 619-582-3794
4630 Cajon Way
San Diego CA 92115-3610
Website: www.eastcountyrosesociety.com
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, except Jul & Aug
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Steve Berry 619-235-0004
P. O. Box 86124
San Diego CA 92138-6124
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan & Feb - 4th Mon
No meetings Jul & Aug

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES

Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego CA 92112-0505
E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com
4th Tue - 6:30 pm, 743 Imperial Avenue

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Road
Oceanside CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct
Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden
E-mail: dc@pondplants.com
Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Rosaleen Cox,
Affiliates Editor *California Garden*,
1650 El Prado #105,
San Diego CA 92101-1622.
Call 619-232-5762.

E-mail: membership@sdflloral.org

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January 1, 2005

Dear Garden Friends,

We would like you to come to our 100-year anniversary garden party. It will take place three years from now in the year 2007.

We do not have the dates yet. It may last a day, or a weekend, or a month, or the whole year. It really depends on our common vision. You are invited to participate.

Imagine an international flower show. Imagine demonstration gardens, humming birds and butterflies. Imagine garden designers and lecturers coming from around the world. Imagine each plant society or garden club showing off its horticultural wonders. Imagine what you will.

We will be having our next planning meeting Friday January 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at our office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Please come and join us and share your energy. If you can't make it, but would like to participate, please contact us, 619-232-5762 or editor@sdfloreal.org.

Growingly,
Board of Directors
San Diego Floral Association